GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1047
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2004
NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAMME
Chouhan Shri Shivraj Singh

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated a three stage nuclear energy programme on the basis `of indigenous nuclear fuel sources to provide long-term energy security to the country; , ,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the presenf status thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER`S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the three-stage nuclear power programme are:

- Natural uranium fuelled Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) in the first stage.
- Fast Breeder Reactors utilising uranium-plutonium fuel cycle in the second stage.
- Breeder Reactors for utilisation of thorium, in the third stage.

The three stages of the programme have fuel cycle linkages and have to be gone through sequentially.

(c) There are 14 nuclear power reactors in operation in the-country 12 of which are PHWRs. In addition, 9 power reactors are under construction 6 of which are PHWRs. India has achieved maturity in the first stage of the programme. The beginning of the second stage of the programme has been made with the commencement of construction of a 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu in 2003. The third stage of the programme will be launched after a sizeable base capacity has been built of the second stage reactors.